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HOLY HILL ROAD

DANIEL BOONE CONSERVATION LEAGUE NATURE TRAILS

The DBCL trails first reached by the plank and utility pole boardwalk in 1978 have felt the footsteps of thousands of Daniel Boone families and friends exploring the great glacial formations on the property. Four distinct trails were laid out to exemplify the change of terrain and botany of the grounds. Whether it be snow, rain, hail or sleet, bugs, sun, clouds or heat, the trails are always open.

Take your time as you walk these trails. Listen to the sounds of nature. Pause to capture the smells drifting up from leaves, flowers, and even the damp earth.

Be alert to the movement of wildlife and the precious glimpses of creatures in their natural habitat doing their prescribed tasks.

Stop to examine the odd, the unusual, and the beautiful plants and trees. Allow yourself to wonder why they are as you see them.

> Look closely at the insects that populate the air, water and ground. Sort out the calls and sounds from birds, frogs, and insects.

Reflect on how this glacially tortured land has been healed and graced by the gentle hand of time. Leave behind all the physical evidence for others to observe, but bring away with you a new awareness of life's basic pattern.

> Leave nothing but footprints, take nothing but memories, kill nothing but time.

PARKING

LEGEND BENCH PLANK BRIDGE BOARDWALK BRIDGE POINT OF INTEREST (#) - TRAILS PROPERTY LINE 0.10

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1. 11,000 years ago two ice lobes (Michigan and Green Bay) of the Wisconsin glacier created the landforms you will now be walking over.

2. A bridge to keep our feet dry, but the various plants growing here need their roots wet to grow and mature.

3. As you traverse these trails watch, listen, and learn ... take with you a new awareness.

4. Quaking Aspen (Populas tremuloides) an intermediate forest species will eventually give way to more shade resistant trees such as the Maples (Acer sp.) creating a climax forest.

5. Damaged years ago this oak is now providing den sites for the local wild animals in its trunk.

6. Evidence of past glacial activity are indicated by these ERRATICS, glacier-transported rock fragments which were the tools of the ice to scratch and scour the surface of the land.

CRANBERRY TRAIL

A. Look for deer signs - rubs, beds, and browsing. A natural affinity exists between Whitetail Deer and White Cedar.
B. We are now at the foot of a Glacial Kame. Look for Black Cherry, Highbush Cranberry, and Ninebark.

C. Observe the mossy hillside, an indication of extremely acid ground. Staghorn Sumac, Ninebark and Hemlock abound on the hillside.

D. Foxes, skunks and rabbits take over dens dug by badgers. Please stay on the trails.

E. The giant Oak tree was brought down by old age making room for younger trees.

F. This White Oak was one of Siamese twins. One twin died, this was the result.

G. See the roots at the base of a large White Oak. The root system is usually as large as the branch system. Observe the kettle holes on either side of the trail.

H. Examine the glacial pothole from this vantage point, while two large Shagbarks watch over the corner.

I. Only trees and plants that can tolerate wet feet can live here. Tamarack, Willow, Soft Maple, White and Yellow Birch, White Ash and Dogwood are some of the trees.

ESKER LOOP

7. Planted by club members, these Norway Spruce (Picea abies) and White Cedar (Thuja occidentalis) help to hold back precious topsoil on this otherwise sparse slope.

8. Eskers are ridges of glacial deposits caused by subterranean rivers within the glacier. Because they consist of fine stratified gravels, few remain. They suffer at the hands of developers for their gravel resource.

9. Shagbark Hickories (Carya ovata) characterized by their peeling bark are important to wildlife and many people gather fallen nuts in fall for cakes, cookies and au natural.

10. Conservation is a state of harmony between man and land, please respect the earth as you walk these trails.

11. Producers, consumers, decomposers, although this tree is now dead it is still producing nutrients and soil for future growth through the role of the decomposers.

12. A roll of barbed wire, a small reminder that this ground was once used for more than just a nature trail.

13. These dead trees and stumps represent the forests cycle of life, new trees replacing the old.

14. Timber, a resource which is renewable, but only if used wisely and not selfishly.

15. Blowdowns. A high-water table which allows trees to have a shallow root system with little holding power.

16. An example of nature's power, this oak is a reminder of the ice storm of March 1976, for years to come.

17. Unlike its twin sister to the south of the esker, this bog has already completely grown over to produce a meadow.

18. Scarred by disease, a burl is a scar tissue that grew from this White Oak (Quercus alba). It can be a reason a tree succumbs to the forces of nature.

DRUMLIN LOOP

19. Like winds and sunsets, wild things were taken for granted until progress began to do away with them. Now we face the question whether a still higher "Standard of Living" is worth its

cost in things natural, wild, and free (Aldo Leopold, "A Sand County Almanac").

20. Running water early in spring and wet summers drains one marsh and filters into another, eventually soaking in and replenishing ground water.

21. White Pine (Pinus strobus) planted more than seventy years ago. Note the difference in the forest floor.

22. The scattered marshlands visible from here provide filtering of run-off water through natures sponge while providing a home for aquatic life.

23. Enjoy a fresh drink of water from the pump, sit, relax, and listen to the sounds of nature.

24. Openings in a woods allow sunlight to filter directly on the forest floor. Understory growth flourishes.

25. To the casual observer it is just dead tree, standing naked, but it is a Forest Inn for a surprising variety of wildlife.

26. Few people see the plant life within a bog, a water body grown over by vegetation. The acidic waters hold plants that kill to eat, such as the Pitcher Plant and Sundew.

27. Ironwood or Muscle Wood (Carpinus caroliniana) called so because of the deeply rippled look also is worthy of its name because is easily dulls a saw.

28. Once almost lost from Wisconsin's wetlands through disease and drainage, the soft green needles of spring and the warm golds of fall make the Tamarack (Laris laricina) a tree easily missed by those whose delights lie in wild things.

29. Islands in a marsh affords a dry spot for those creatures who grow or live here. Acorns from White Oak, High Bush Cranberry, and Sumac Berries in the fall.

SCOUT TRAIL & LOOP

J. Steep drops appear on either side and the wetland kettle lying to the east. Blocks of clear glacial ice forced melt rivers to deposit sediment along the outside leaving the large kettle behind as the ice blocks melted away.

K. The field to the east quickly emerges from the forest hills. Under plow since the turn of the century it is now a planned conservation space.

L. Boone Crick flows through the adjoining farms and woodlands. Headwaters lying 1.5 miles north-east. It's cool waters flow across the Daniel Boone property feeding the Oconomowoc River and ultimately contributing to the Mighty Mississippi. Consider the drop of rain that begins a journey here and ends up in the Gulf of Mexico. Flows as slow as a trickle and as fast at a raging current vary throughout the year.

M. As old growth canopy opens to the sky, young species emerge and take over. Seeds can remain hidden and shaded for years before a mature forest yields to mother nature allowing the new vegetation to spring to life, reaching for the sky in all directions.

N. The rocks you're are crossing did not end up here by accident. They are remnants and a reminder of a region's storied past. This terrain was once farmed by our town's ancestors. Placing field stones in rows along property lines and pastures was common. Any land flat enough to traverse with a wagon were cleared, plowed, and planted. Less than 100-years of time has restored the area to a resemblance of pre-settlement days.
O. The topography under your feet is called a Draw. Two adjacent ridges eventually meet at the south end creating a saddle. Saddles become natural travel ways for wildlife looking for the easiest routes through the environment. Observe how quickly our forest environment changes between wet lowlands and streams to high gravel peaks.

DBCL Trail Creator

Original trail network and waypoints laid out and documented in 1978 by Gary Frank, who at that time was a Senior at UW Stevens Point studying Natural Resources.

1.91 total miles, 64' maximum elevation change

Questions or trail condition issues please contact Jason Duehring at 262-628-3173 (no texts).